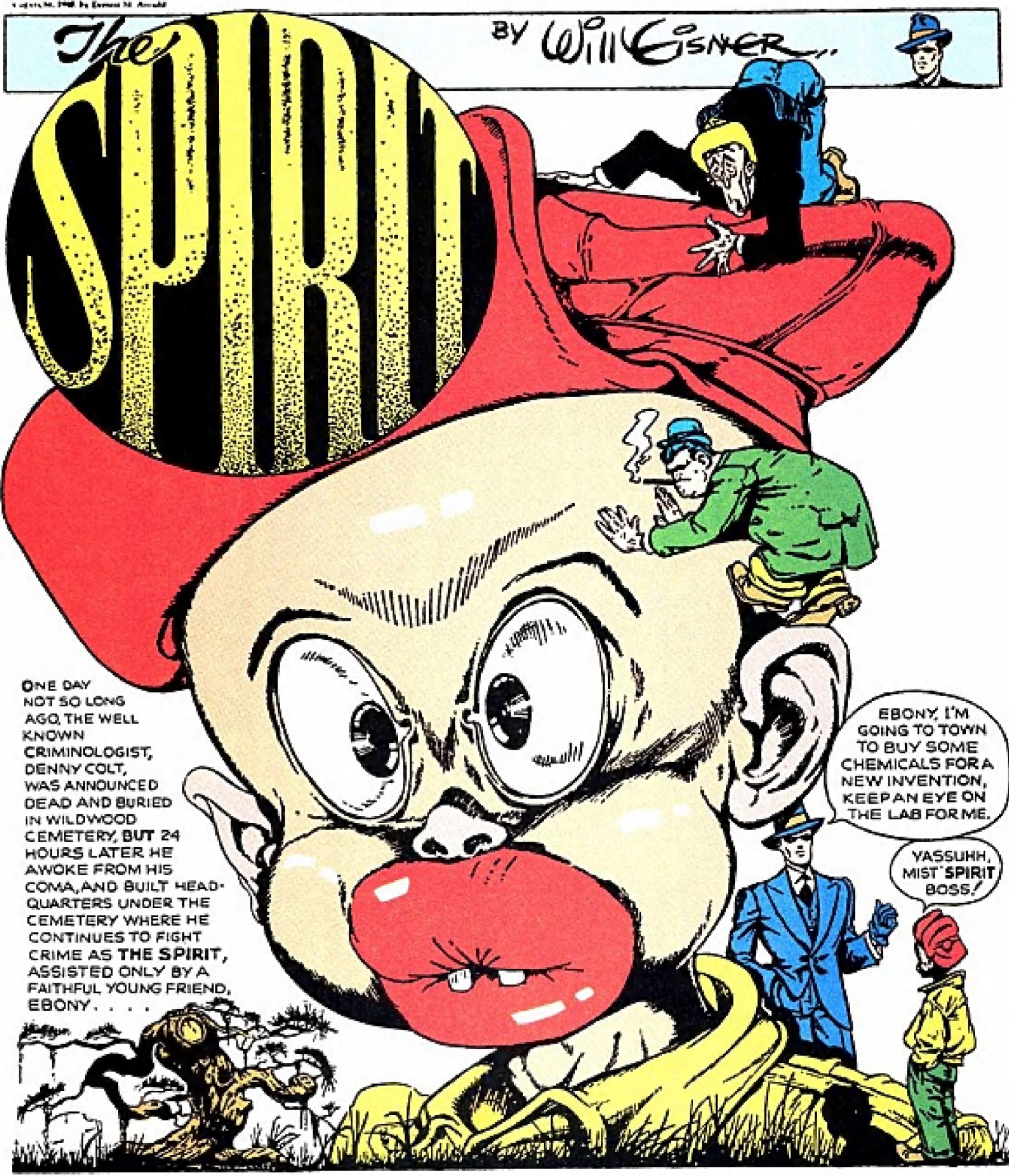


September 15, 1940

The

By Will Eisner



ONE DAY NOT SO LONG AGO, THE WELL KNOWN CRIMINOLOGIST, DENNY COLT, WAS ANNOUNCED DEAD AND BURIED IN WILDWOOD CEMETERY, BUT 24 HOURS LATER HE AWOKE FROM HIS COMA, AND BUILT HEAD-QUARTERS UNDER THE CEMETERY WHERE HE CONTINUES TO FIGHT CRIME AS THE SPIRIT, ASSISTED ONLY BY A FAITHFUL YOUNG FRIEND, EBONY. . . .

EBONY, I'M GOING TO TOWN TO BUY SOME CHEMICALS FOR A NEW INVENTION, KEEP AN EYE ON THE LAB FOR ME.

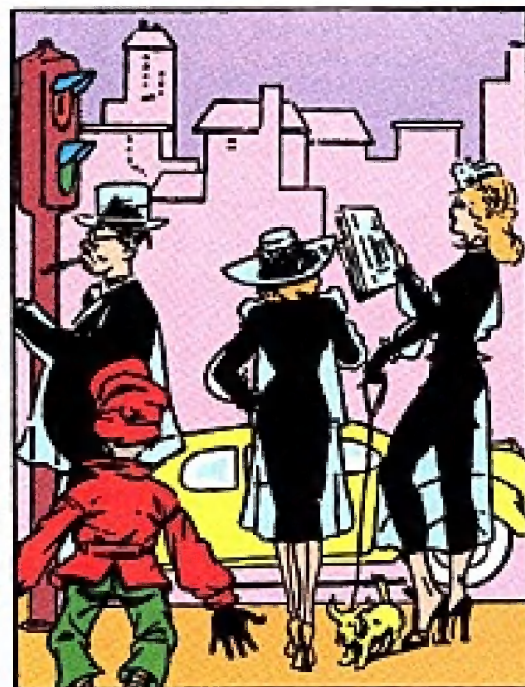
YASSUHH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS!







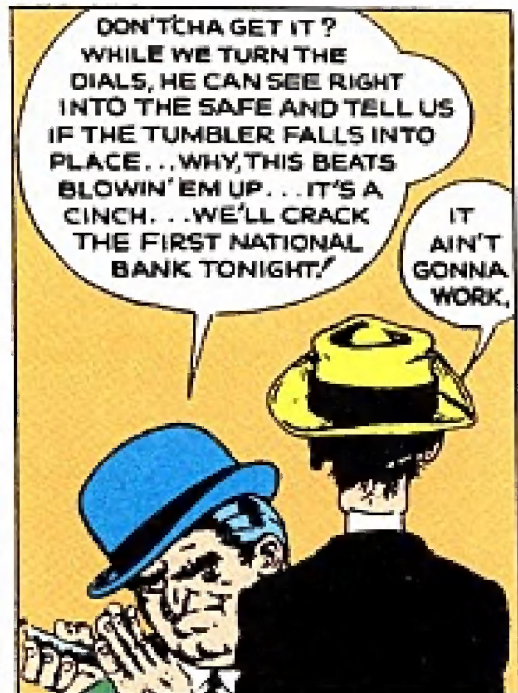
MEANWHILE LET'S FOLLOW  
POOR EBONY AS HE WANDERS  
THROUGH THE STREETS . . .



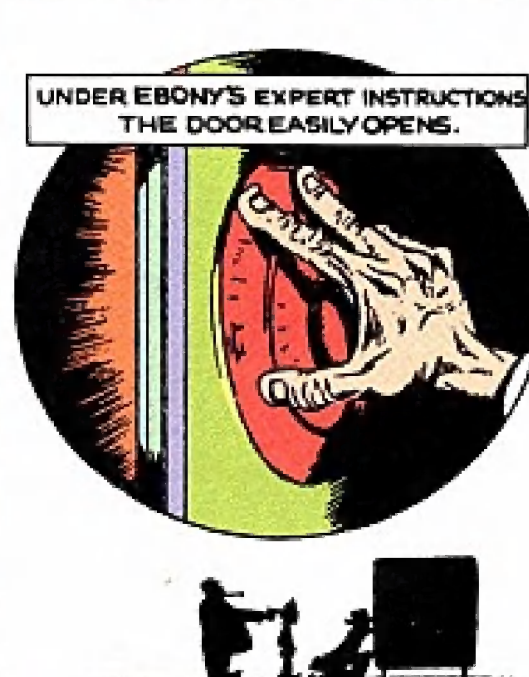
NOW, LET US LOOK IN ON TWO  
"GENTLEMEN OF CHANCE"







THAT NIGHT EBONY IS FORCED TO WORK ON A SAFE WITH HIS NEW BOSSES...



THEY ARRIVE AT THEIR HIDEOUT TO FIND AN ANGRY MAN AWAITING THEM.



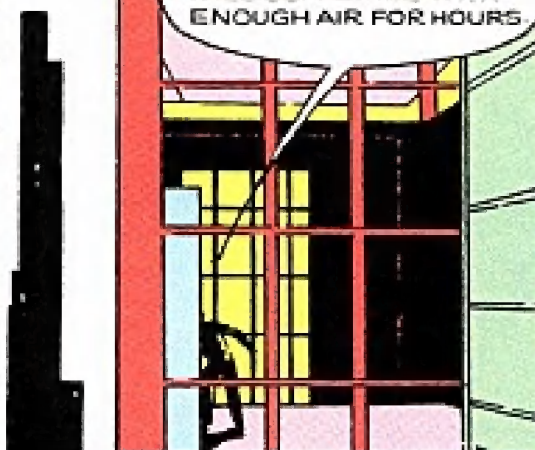


AT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, THE SPIRIT, SEARCHING FOR EBONY, COMES UPON A CLUE



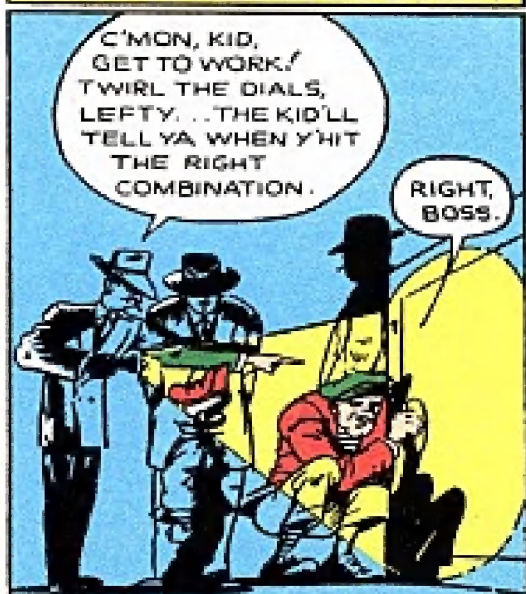
HMM... THE CROOKS DON'T USE ANY TOOLS... MUST BE THE GANG THAT KIDNAPPED EBONY... BECAUSE THEY'RE USING MY X-RAY IN SOME WAY

AT THE NEW BANK,



IF I KNOW CRIMINALS, THOSE EGGS WILL TRY THIS BANK TONIGHT, AND I'LL BE INSIDE WAITING FOR THEM... THESE OXYGEN CAPSULES WILL SUPPLY ME WITH ENOUGH AIR FOR HOURS

LATE THAT NIGHT IN THE BANK...



C'MON, KID, GET TO WORK! TWIRL THE DIALS, LEFTY... THE KID'LL TELL YA WHEN Y'HIT THE RIGHT COMBINATION.

RIGHT, BOSS.

BUT AS EBONY LOOKS INTO THE VAULT...



GOLLY! IF DEY OPEN IT AND SEE HIM, DEY'LL SHOOT HIM! DEY GOT GUNS... AH GOT TO SAVE THE SPIRIT!



AH REFUSE TO DO IT... N-NO MATTER WHAT... EVEN IF YO' SHOOT ME.



SHOOTIN'S TOO GOOD FOR YOU, PUNK!

C'MON, I WANNA GET MY HANDS ON 'NIFTY' DUGAN... SELL ME A PHONEY, WILL HE?!



AFTER THEY LEAVE, EBONY RISES WEAKLY.



GONE! NOW'S MY CHANCE TO RELEASE THE SPIRIT... AH'LL OPEN THE SAFE MYSELF!

BUT.

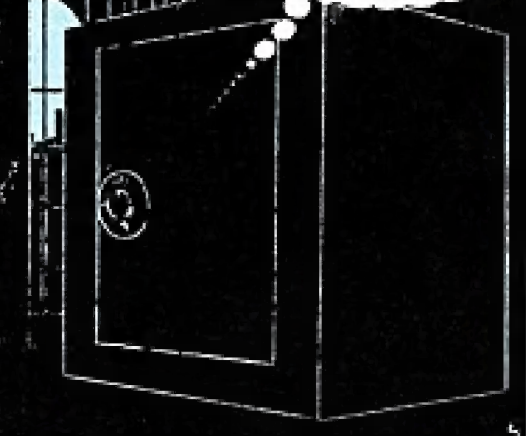
HOLY JUMPIN' JEEHOSOPHAT! AH CAN'T SEE THINGS NOMO! AH JES SEES REVERSE NOW!



THE SPIRIT'LL NEVER GET OUTA THERE NOW... AH'LL GO GET SOME DYNAMITE TO BLOW IT OPEN!

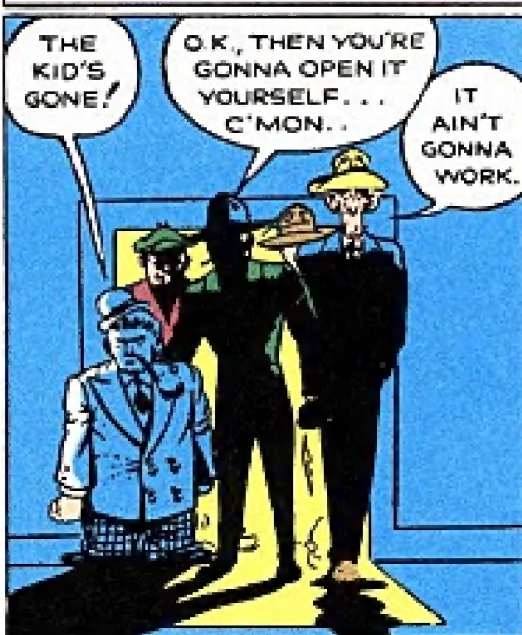


WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING THOSE YEGGS? I HOPE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO EBONY!





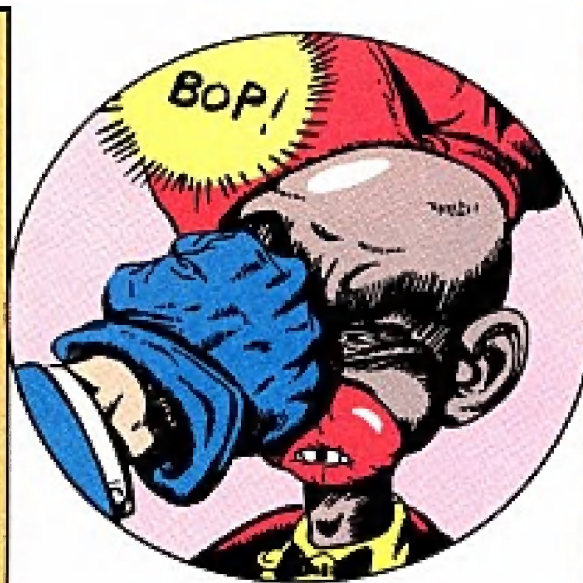
WHILE EBONY IS GONE, THE CROOKS RETURN WITH SMILEY AND NIFTY. . .



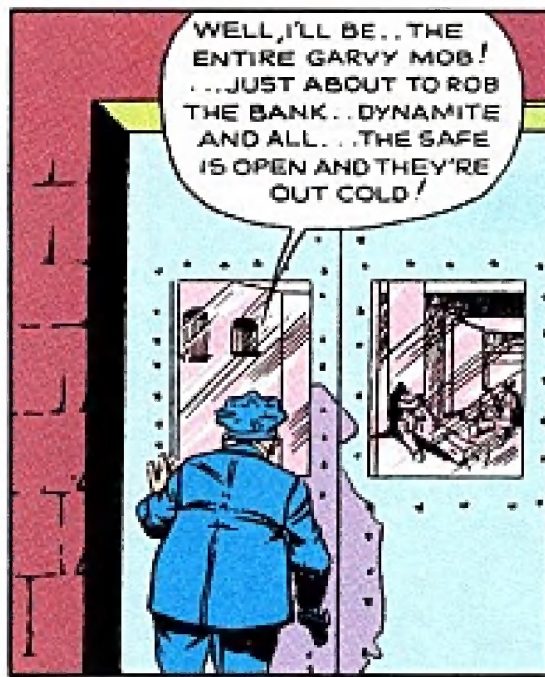
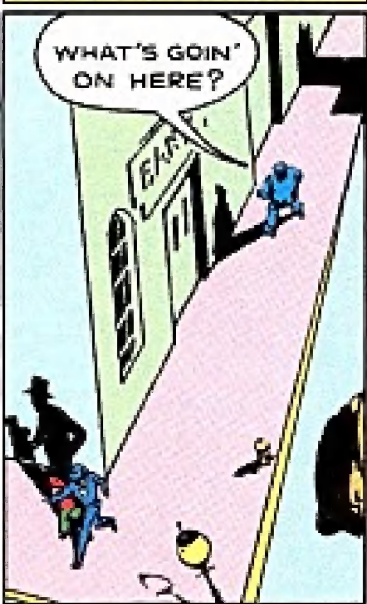
EBONY RETURNS. . .







THEY LEAVE JUST AS A PATROLMAN RUNS UP.



NEXT MORNING, BACK IN THE SAFETY OF WILDWOOD CEMETERY..

